

"Whose War Was It, Anyway?" Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iraq or America?"

BY A. LEE HENDERSON



Saudi Arabia, we may well be asking the question, "Whose war was it, anyway?"

Hopefully, it will be nobody's war, but when we look back on the mideast crisis which challenged us to take a military stand with troop deployment in 1990 to

an Iraqi underground, helping our troops with videotapes and reports that are both radiotelegraphed or brought into Saudi Arabia by special courier, we realize that our decision to abide by all of Saudi Arabia customs, is not contingent upon this brave group of anti-Hussein rebels. We are instructing all of our troops to conform to the ways and circumscribed dress of the very nation we have come to help...indeed the price of oil and how to save it for the Saudis is our prime focus for being there, it is not?

I cannot goose-pimple with delight when President Bush announces his virtuous stance to prevent a dictator like Saddam Hussein from abusing human rights. Not because I am callous to any abuse of human rights, but simply because I see too clearly the heart-break of apartheid in south Africa running its course for all these years without any comparable action on the part of the United States to stop "dictatorship" in its tracks!

Are we to believe Bush is sincere with a scorecard in front of us that shows his waffling in situations that were equally reprehensible, yet were sidestepped by him without any direct action or intervention?

While Operation Desert Shield has hyped "doing the right thing" against the tyrant Hussein, recruitment has not been up to expectations. The army reports itself twenty percent short of its goals, and the Navy fell twelve percent below expectations with a greater dip projected.

Statistics do not tell the entire story...certainly there is a more considered attitude among young people about dying when it comes as a risk for someone else's cause. The emotional lessons learned in Vietnam linger. Waging an unpopular war is not about to become the trap for President Bush whose threatened deadline before the United Nations of January 15 to scare Hussein into releasing Kuwait has already been deferred.

But the scuttlebutt of what it's really like to sit in the middle of the desert, and suffer and endure Saudi Arabia according to its Moslem tenets a discipline, has had to trickle down to the buddies left at home, re-enforcing them to join the side of peace rather than aggression that could lead to a bloody war.

As amazing number of new pacifist groups have surfaced, among them one that emotionally supports the men and women among their families now in service while it actively petitions for them to come home without deaths or casualties.

A call to thinking, rather than a call to arms can prove the turning point against ringing down the final act of mayhem on this planet culminating in raining upon us all the prophecies of Revelations.

The January 1991 issue of the Reader's Digest, one of the middle-road all-American-cheering section for our nation, reveals some startling facts. (How We Appeared A Tyrant by Rachel Finch, January 1991).

With a year-by-year chronology dating back to 1980, the facts speak with a roar of how we appeased the oil producing country helmed by Saddam Hussein.

Briefly:

*1980-Iraq bombs Iran...France honors agreement: \$1.6 billion in arms sales for Iraq...helps Saddam "develop the peaceful" Osiraq nuclear reactor's capability.

Saudi Arabia deplores Israel's strike to incapacitate the Osiraq nuclear plant...and Bush backs Saudi Arabia among Western leaders deploring the strike.

*1982-U.S. state department removes Iraq from its list of terrorist nations. Saddam builds underground bases for the air force.

*1983-German medical supplier Karl Kolb GmbH constructs six "pesticide plants" for Saddam. Saddam

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

No War!

Continued from front page

health care, just like us. They don't want war, but they will fight to defend their country against an American invasion," he said. He added that he and a delegation of 20 Americans who had brought medical supplies were warmly received by the people and officials in both Jordan and Iraq.

In a dramatic moment, Job unfolded a body bag on the stage. Explaining that while he did not want to offend "mothers and fathers who have children stationed in Saudi Arabia," he wanted the audience to see a real body bag to drive home the point that "if we don't prevent war in the Middle East, thousands of these body bags will be coming home with the bodies of our children in them."

Gretchen Kafoury, the newly-elected City Commissioner, announced that she would introduce a resolution against the use of military force in the Persian Gulf at the next meeting before the Multnomah Board of County Commissioners. She wondered why people were not "more outraged and militant" about the military build-up in the Middle East by the Bush administration.

Subscribe!

PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Portland Observer can be sent directly to your home for only \$25.00 per year. Please fill out, enclose check or money order, and Mail to:

Subscriptions
Portland Observer
PO Box 3137
Portland, Oregon 97208

Name _____
address _____
city, state _____
zip-code _____

Thank You For Reading the Portland Observer

Life is complicated enough.
So we made checking simple.



Introducing Simply

Better Checking.™ Some

people buy computers just

to balance their check-

books these days. Security Pacific, however,

is the only major bank to offer no per-check charges on any account.

So balancing your checkbook is easy.

So is accessing your money. We give you the convenience of

Saturday hours, unlimited ReadyTeller® ATM access and unlimited

checkwriting all for one low monthly fee.

All it takes to open a Simply Better Checking Account is a simple

phone call. Dial 1-800-551-FAST.

SECURITY PACIFIC BANK
Simply Better™

CALL 1-800-551-FAST FOR OUR SATURDAY HOURS

Member FDIC. ©1991 Security Pacific Bancorporation Northwest.

Said King: "We Southerners, Negro and white, must no longer permit our heritage to be dishonored before the world... We have the duty to remove from political domination a small minority that cripples the economic and social institutions of our country and thereby degrades and impoverished everyone."

Labor Salute to Martin Luther King, Jr.

Keynote speaker APRI National President, Norman Hill, New York, New York

January 18th 1991 Breakfast, Northwest Oregon Labor Council, The Oregon AFL-CLO, LERC State Fed, APRI (Portland Chapter) and other labor organizations

PORTLAND OBSERVER

(USPS 959-680)

OREGON'S OLDEST AFRICAN AMERICAN PUBLICATION
Established in 1970

Alfred L. Henderson
Publisher

Joyce Washington
Operations Manager

Gary Ann Garnett
Business Manager

Leon Harris
Editorial Manager

The PORTLAND OBSERVER is published weekly by Exie Publishing Company, Inc. 4747 N.E. M.L.K., Jr. Blvd. Portland, Oregon 97211 P.O. Box 3137 Portland, Oregon 97208 (503) 288-0033 (Office) FAX#: (503) 288-0015



Deadlines for all submitted materials:

Articles: Monday, 5 p.m. -- Ads: Tuesday, 5 p.m.

POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes to: Portland Observer, P.O. Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208. Second-class postage paid at Portland, Oregon.

The Portland Observer welcomes freelance submissions. Manuscripts and photographs should be clearly labeled and will be returned if accompanied by a self addressed envelope. All created design display ads become the sole property of this newspaper and can not be used in other publications or personal usage, without the written consent of the general manager, unless the client has purchased the composition of such ad. 1990 PORTLAND OBSERVER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION IS PROHIBITED.

Subscriptions: \$20.00 per year in the Tri-County area; \$25.00 all other areas. The Portland Observer - Oregon's Oldest African-American Publication - is a member of The National Newspaper Association - Founded in 1885, and The National Advertising Representative Amalgamated Publishers, Inc., New York, NY.

PORTLAND OBSERVER & CMT AGENCY

Are • The • Proud • Sponsors • Of

Reinvestments in the Community

What Happened to Minority Business?

By Professor McKinley Burt

When a black business fails, the situation is not like a certain solemn occasion in the great hall of "Lloyds of London," no grave and austere official bangs his gavel to bring all activities to a halt as the traditional ringing of an ancient ship's bell precedes the announcement that a vessel has been lost at sea. Business gone-gone business. Another statistic.

Let us get on with our analysis. When I described the operation of the black lumber broker last week, I should have connected this success with the advice I gave to my minority business students at Portland State University: "Expand your horizons-join the campus business clubs-engage in extra-curricular activities, associate with students of other ethnic groups when possible or comfortable. generally, they have superior information sources-exploit those contacts. This 'networking' is the American way, whatever your opinion of the matter."

In the particular case, this black lumber broker had established a friendship with a white teammate on the Stanford basket ball squad. They frequently exchanged visits at their respective homes. When they graduated with business degrees, the white father, a wealthy lumberman,

decided he would set them both up in business. After an on-the-job learning period in San Francisco the black young man was financed in purchasing an available Portland opportunity in specialized "Redwood" market.

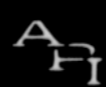
An everyday occurrence in the nation's business world-except for the "color scheme." Now, when we posed the question, "Is your Government User Friendly?" (title of October 17 Article), we could have told you this: a LOT DEPENDS ON YOU! Consider the scenario as you are directed (encouraged) to interface with any or all of a host of governmental institutions, all with the advertised goal of bringing minorities and women into the economic mainstream of America. Where to embark? Small Business Administration-Business Incubator-Minority Set Asides-Lease Guarantees-Specific programs of various Public Agencies or Large Corporations?

There are, of course, many advisors and consultants around, some independent, but most employed or contracted by the agencies named above. You must understand, however, that few if any of these persons have had 'real-time' successful business experience-meeting payrolls, marketing a product, or making a profit (if so, they would still be in business!). Most have simply met the

required employment criteria of a civil service exam written by a 'non-business person-or have demonstrated an ability to 'successfully relate' in some social community service area. A year or two of college business courses is quite acceptable, as is knowing someone already on board.

These points should prompt a consideration that 'you' may be in mind rather than the system, when the judgment is pronounced, "Designed To Fail." The more preliminary research and investigation performed, the better and more detailed information and advice you will receive when first entering the system. Usually your initial contact will quickly refer you to some one more knowledgeable when realizing that he is inadequate to the occasion. This is not always the case and often one loses a great deal of valuable time in such a situation. It is best to allow a good measure of 'lead time' in all phases of your project.

You may think it of little consequence that you have neither the required capital or experience prerequisite to success in the particular business enterprise. "After all they know I'm a minority, and if I had all that 'good stuff' I wouldn't need them anyway." You would be surprised at how many enter the system with this attitude; I encountered dozens of them in the business classes I taught.



"Reinvestments in the Community" is a weekly column appearing in API publications throughout the USA.